Missouri
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY
EDUCATION™

Chris Neale, Ed.D. • *Assistant Commissioner*

Division of Financial and Administrative Services

205 Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 480 • Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480 • dese.mo.gov

Administrative Memo

Date: March 22, 2022
To: School Administrators
From: Chris Neale, Assistant Commissioner, Federal Relief Programs
Subject: FAS-22-002 — Mental Health First Aid Training

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) announces a new partnership with Mental Health First Aid Missouri — operated by the Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH) and Missouri Institute of Mental Health (MIMH) — to provide Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training for local education agencies (LEAs) at no cost. These skills-based programs give adults the tools they need to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges in both fellow adults (the standard Mental Health First Aid training), as well as in adolescents ages 12-18 (the Youth Mental Health First Aid — or YMHFA — training).

MHFA trainings, both adult and youth, will be available beginning March 22, 2022. The trainings can be delivered onsite, virtually, or in a hybrid format. Trainings take approximately one day to complete. MIMH notes that the trainings are appropriate for a broad range of adults, including educators, school leaders, support staff, volunteers, and other school stakeholders. LEAs may visit MHFAMissouri.org and select "Register Now" to request training sessions.

Since the National Council for Mental Wellbeing and DMH brought Mental Health First Aid training to the U.S. in 2008, more than 2.5 million people have been certified. Several Missouri LEAs' staff members have participated in the MHFA training and found it to be beneficial in responding to both adult and student needs.

For more information, please visit MHFAMissouri.org. For questions about MHFA and the trainings available, contact Rachel Taube or Amy Bartels at info@mhfamissouri.org**.**